

FINAL CRUISE REPORT

Ship Name (Cruise Code): Gordon Gunter (13-05)

DOS Cruise No.: 2013-

Operating Institution: NOAA, NMFS, NEFSC, OMAO

Cruise Dates: November 14 – November 26, 2013

Project Title: Ecosystem Monitoring Survey

Chief Scientist(s): Harvey Walsh

Clearance Country: Canada

Foreign Participants: None

Port Calls: None

Description of the Scientific Program: The primary objectives were originally to assess the pelagic components of the Northeast U.S. Continental Shelf Ecosystem from water currents to plankton, pelagic fishes, marine mammals, sea turtles, and seabirds. Specifically we wanted to quantify the spatial distribution of the following parameters: water currents, water properties, phytoplankton, microzooplankton, mesozooplankton, pelagic fish and invertebrates, sea turtles, marine mammals, and sea birds. Traditional and novel techniques and instruments were to be used. In essence, the approaches of the Ecosystem Monitoring survey and the Herring Acoustic survey were to be combined and augmented to include a broad array of measurements of the pelagic ecosystem. However, mechanical problems with the trawl winch caused the loss of trawling capability, and the loss of seven days of survey time, so the work was scaled back in scope and geographic area. No midwater trawls were done, and the sampling that was done with bongo nets and CTD's was confined to a less representative coverage pattern of the survey area.

Data Observations and Samples Collected (type, location, custodian): Key data collected included: (1) TSG, SCS, and ADCP measurements. (2) CTD and bongo operations at stations throughout the four areas surveyed (3) conduct marine mammal and seabird observations. Samples and data were collected from the Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, Southern New England and Middle Atlantic Bight areas.

Survey samples and data were retained by the Ecosystem Monitoring and Remote Sensing Program of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Narragansett, RI.

Information Address: : Questions regarding the survey may be directed to Jon Hare, Ph.D., National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 28 Tarzwell Dr., Narragansett, RI. Telephone 401-782-3295; Fax 401-782-3201. Internet *Jon.Hare@noaa.gov*.

Schedule of Delivery of All Data Results and reports: Data for this cruise will be uploaded onto an ftp website (ftp://ftp.nefsc.noaa.gov/pub/dropoff/jhare/EcoMon_Data/). Data will be in an excel spreadsheet labeled EcoMon_Zooplankton_Data_v1 with the cruise number "GU1305" preceding the data. Data from this cruise will be available on this site by 30 December 2015. This survey is part of a long term monitoring program; no further reports are anticipated.